Message Text

PAGE 01 SOFIA 01192 121358Z

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E.O. 11652: NA TAGS: EAGR, BU

SUBJECT: WEATHER CONDITIONS WORRY BULGARIANS

REF: SOFIA 0889

- 1. RECENT PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT HIGHLY INCONSISTENT WEATHER EXPERIENCED IN BULGARIA DURING FIRST TEN DAYS OF JUNE MAY HAVE HAD CONSIDERABLY RETARDING EFFECT ON DEVELOPMENT OF THIS YEAR'S CROPS. LIKELIHOOD OF PESTS AND DISEASES HAS INCREASED, AND HOT MOIST WEATHER IS REQUIRED IN UPCOMING WEEKS TO INSURE NORMAL CROP DEVELOPMENT.
- 2. WEATHER AT BEGINNING OF JUNE MADE A SHARP SHIFT FROM TEMPERATURES 2-3 DEGREES CENTIGRADE ABOVE NORMAL TO 4-7 DEGREES CENTIGRADE BELOW. IN PAST FEW DAYS MOST PARTS OF COUNTY HAVE RECEIVED BETWEEN 25-40 LITERS OF RAIN PER SQUARE FOOT WHILE NORTH AND NORTH-WEST BULGARIA EXPERIENCED SOME HAIL STORMS. UNUSUAL COLD IS SAID TO HAVE HAD REAL RETARDANT EFFECT ON A NUMBER OF CROPS, PARTICULARLY COTTON, BEANS, TOBACCO, CORN AND GRAPES. IN ADDITION, INCREASED MOISTURE IN GROUND-AIR LAYER HAS CREATED CONDITIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF DISEASES AND PESTS, A SITUATION REQUIRING "TIMELY AND ADEQUATE MEASURES" TO PROTECT PLANTS.

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PAGE 02 SOFIA 01192 121358Z

" T ON JUNE 10 DCM IN PLEVEN VISITING VITICULTURE RESEARCH INSTITUTE THERE WAS CAUGHT IN HEAVY RAINS ACCOMPANIED BY HAIL WHICH BADLY FLOODED PLEVEN. INSTITUTE OFFICIALS WERE GREATLY TROUBLED BY POSSIBILITIES OF BLIGHT, ETC.

RESULTING FROM RECENT WEATHER CONDITIONS AND INCREASED EXPENSES INVOLVED IN NEED TO USE ADDITIONAL INSECTICIDES AND HERBICIDES. NONETHELESS, WITH NO FURTHER UNTOWARD WEATHER DEVELOPMENTS CROPS ARE EXPECTED TO DEVELOP AT NORMAL PACE. HERZ

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